

Applicants: Ron S. Israeli, et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 128-144 and 161-162 are pending in the subject application. Claim 162 has been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicants' right to subsequently pursue patent protection for the subject matter thereof. The amendment does not add any new matter to the application and therefore, entry of this Amendment into the file of the application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner stated that Applicants' Amendments J through N, i.e., Papers No. 35-38 and 41 respectively, have been entered into the application. The Examiner further stated that, based upon the amendments and arguments in the subject papers, this application is in condition for allowance, except that claim 162 is objected to as being duplicative of claim 161. The Examiner stated with regard to this objection that claim 162 recites a monoclonal antibody having an antigen-binding region specific for the outer membrane domain of prostate specific membrane antigen. The Examiner additionally stated that the outer membrane domain of prostate specific membrane antigen is identical to the extracellular domain of prostate specific membrane antigen, and that claim 161 recites a monoclonal antibody having an antigen-binding region specific for the extracellular domain of prostate specific membrane antigen.

In response to the Examiner's objection, and in reliance upon the Examiner's statement as noted above that, "the outer membrane domain of prostate specific membrane antigen is identical to the extracellular domain of prostate specific membrane antigen", (emphasis supplied by Applicants), claim 162 has been cancelled from the application without disclaimer or prejudice. Cancellation of claim 162 is thus believed to place the entire application in condition for allowance, particularly in view of

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the Examiner's statement at ¶3 of the Office Action that claims 128-144 and 161 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner further stated in the Office Action that Applicants are given TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of the Office Action [i.e., until Sunday December 22, 2002] within which to comply with the sequence rules, 37 C.F.R. §1.821-1.825. The Examiner further stated that failure to comply with these requirements will result in the abandonment of the application under 37 C.F.R. §1.821(g). The Examiner went on to state that Applicants are requested to return a copy of the "attached" Notice to Comply with their reply [to the Office Action].

Since no Notice to Comply was attached to the Office Action, and since Applicants' representatives were not aware of any outstanding sequence issues involving the present application, applicants' representative, Mark A. Farley, Esq. (Reg. No. 33,170) had a telephone discussion with the Examiner concerning the indicated portion of the Office Action on December 2, 2002 to bring the above facts to the Examiner's attention. After reviewing the Action, the Examiner stated that there were no sequence issues outstanding that he was aware of and that the text of the Office Action referring to the same had been inadvertently included in the Office Action. The Examiner therefore indicated that no response is necessary to that portion of the Office Action dealing with compliance with the sequence rules, i.e., 37 C.F.R. §1.821-1.825.

The Examiner further stated in the Office Action that prosecution of this application on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex Parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11., 453 O.G. 213, and that a shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire two months from the mailing date of the Office Action. In response, Applicants are filing this Amendment prior to the

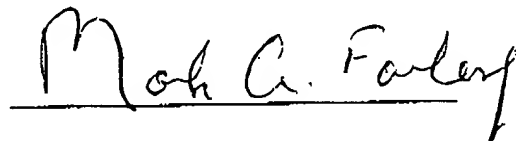
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expiration of the shortened statutory period, which response is thus being timely filed.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone either of them at the number provided below.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Amendment. Should any fee be due, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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